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7-B**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Application No.: 10/003,996

Filed: November 15, 2001

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TISSUE
REMOVAL

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-014-8

Group Art Unit: 3731

Examiner: J. Baxter

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#7/P**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**Mail Stop AMENDMENT - FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**Introductory Comments**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 30, 2002, please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file for the above-identified application. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Amendment begins on a separate sheet. Claims 36-47, 49, and 51-76 remain in this application and are submitted for the Examiner's review and consideration. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 48, and 50 and amended claims 36, 38, 40-47, 49, 51-61, 69, 71-74, and 76, with claims 40, 41, 53, 56, 60, and 71 rewritten in independent form. Applicant believes these amendments serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to:

Group Art Unit 3731, at Fax # (703) 305-3590,
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231
ATTENTION: Patent Examiner Jessica BAXTER

On March 31, 2003

Paul Bianco

Name of Person Transmitting Facsimile

Signature of Person Transmitting Facsimile